

Young Playwrights FAQs

For further questions or information, please contact Gary Cadwallader at 561/514-4042, ext. 123 or gcadwallader@palmbeachdramaworks.org.

Who is Palm Beach Dramaworks?

Palm Beach Dramaworks is a professional theatre company in West Palm Beach. Founded in 2000, our mission is to engage and entertain audiences with provocative and timeless productions that personally impact each individual. Our vision is to enhance the quality of life through the transformative power of live theatre. PBD's education and community engagement programming nurtures creativity, inspires potential, builds confidence, and encourages self-expression.

What is a Ten-Minute play?

According to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts:

A Ten-Minute Play is a play with at least two characters. It is not a scene, skit or sketch. Structurally, it should have a beginning, middle and end, just as any good one-act or full-length play. Reaching beyond the surface, the text should be enriched with subtext. Since we only have ten minutes to bring the story full circle, a dramatic conflict should be posed as quickly as possible. The resolution of that conflict is what plays out across the remaining pages. The true success of a Ten-Minute Play is reliant on the writer's ability to bring an audience through the same cathartic/entertaining experience that a good one-act or full-length play accomplishes, i.e., sympathetic characters with recognizable needs encompassed within a resolvable dramatic conflict.

Depending on the density of the text, a Ten-Minute play should be 8 to 11 pages in length.

Who is eligible to participate in the PBD Young Playwrights Ten-Minute Play Contest?

Palm Beach County students, 13 – 19 years of age, studying in the 9th to 12th grade, are eligible to participate in this program. This contest is open to public, private, charter, and homeschooled students. If you have any questions about eligibility, please contact Gary Cadwallader, Director of Education and Community Engagement, at gcadwallader@palmbeachdramaworks.org.

How do I incorporate this project into my classes?

PBD provides 5-day lesson plans and support documents on the Young Playwrights page of our website. Educators may use all or portions of these lesson plans, and may modify these plans to suit their needs. Educators may also use their own lesson plans. PBD's 5-day lesson plans do not need to be taught consecutively, but we've discovered that the lesson plans are most effective when taught in a short period of time.

What is the PBD Young Playwrights Contest timeline?

The timeline is subject to change

- Lesson plans may be incorporated at any time in Fall 2024
- Submission Deadline: Friday, November 15 @ 5:00pm
- Announcement of finalists: Monday, December 2 @ 12:00pm
- Deadline to resubmit revised plays: Monday, December 9 @ 5:00pm
- Announcement of winners: Thursday, December 19 @ 9:00am
- A winners master class with a nationally renowned playwright. January TBA
- Winners' orientation and photo shoot: Tuesday, January 21, 2025
- Writer's Workshop: February 1, 2025
- Performance: Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Should I offer revisions to students before they submit their script?

All plays should be edited by educators before submission to PBD. The plays should be in the correct playwriting format, and are adjudicated with a rubric. A play formatting document, recommended by the Dramatists Guild, and the adjudication rubric is found in the lesson plans. We suggest that educators set an early classroom due date so that edits, revisions, and suggestions for improvement be given to students and implemented before submission to PBD.

What types or styles of plays are accepted?

All genres of plays are accepted. However, all plays must be original. No previously copyrighted words, phrases, poems, passages, lyrics or music are accepted. Teachers must ensure that each play is 100% original before submission. If a play is found to contain any copyrighted material it will immediately result in disqualification.

Are ten-minute musicals eligible?

Students may submit ten-minute musicals. However, all music and lyrics must be original. No previously copyrighted material of any kind will be accepted.

In order to ensure that music and lyrics are original, accompaniment tracks should be submitted with the script via Dropbox or Google. We suggest that the tracks include at least one vocalist singing the melody line. The vocalist can be the author, friend, family member, or teacher. Depending on the author's musical composition skill level, it would be beneficial for sheet music to accompany the script. But this is not required for the initial submission. However, if a ten-minute musical is chosen as a finalist or winner, it is the author's responsibility to immediately supply sheet music for all songs. If sheet music is not submitted, the musical will not be further considered.

If a ten-minute musical is one of the ten winning productions, only the book and lyrics will be published in the anthology.

How do I submit my students' plays?

Plays may be submitted two ways, either through a link or by email. See below. Please note that all plays must be submitted by a teacher or school administrator. We do not accept submissions from individual students. If a homeschool student is submitting a play, the parent or guardian may make the submission. Here are instructions for submitting a play:

- All plays must be ten-minute plays. We do not accept one-act or full length plays at this time
- Plays must be submitted as Word or PDF documents
- Submit through email: Please attach plays to an email and send entries to:
gcadwallader@palmbeachdramaworks.org
- Submit entries in a folder via Google or Dropbox: Please scan, upload or organize your students' play, and send a link from Google Drive or Dropbox to: gcadwallader@palmbeachdramaworks.org
- Please ensure that the shared folder is editable so that PBD may download the plays
- Please be sure that all plays have a title page with the following:
 - Title of play
 - Author
 - School
 - Teacher name
 - Teacher's email address and telephone number
- All entries will receive a confirmation email after submission

What if my students are finalists? What happens next?

You will be notified by email if your student is a finalist for the PBD Young Playwrights contest. Written feedback and suggestions for improvements and revisions from theatre professionals will be sent with the email. Students will be

given one week to consider all suggestions, make any revisions, and resubmit their play to PBD. See timeline above. All finalists' plays will be assessed against the Young Playwrights rubric, and the top ten plays will be chosen as winners.

What if my students are winners? What happens next?

Winning playwrights will be given a thoroughly professional experience! A professional director and actors will be hired for each play, and young playwrights are invited and encouraged to participate in the rehearsal process. A performance in March features all the winning plays in staged readings, and the winning playwrights will be honored onstage.

Winning playwrights will be presented with a gift of \$250. All winning playwrights will be asked to make final edits to their script, and answer interview questions for publication. All winning scripts will be published together in one anthology, and playwrights, teachers, and the school's principal will all receive a complimentary copy of the book.